

**PROCESS CONVENTION**

**Territorial Leadership Committee**

**General Considerations**

The Territorial Leadership Committee (TLC) is the vehicle used by the Northwest Territories' consensus style government to recommend the appointment of the Speaker, Premier and Members of the Executive Council to the Legislative Assembly and Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. The Territorial Leadership Committee is a unique meeting of all duly elected Members of the Legislative Assembly. Its meetings are not governed by the Rules of the Legislative Assembly and constitute neither a formal sitting of the House or one of its standing or special committees. Its decisions do not carry the weight of law and are not binding in any way.

The Speaker and Premier are appointed by motion of the Legislative Assembly. The Executive Council is composed of the Premier chosen by the Legislative Assembly and persons appointed to the Executive Council by the Commissioner on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly. The size and structure of the Executive Council is governed by political convention only. It is up to each Legislative Assembly to determine the size and make-up of its Executive Council and the timing of its appointment. These conventions, known as the "Guidelines and Procedures for Selection of Speaker, Premier and Members of the Executive Council (Guidelines and Procedures)" may be reviewed and revised as often as Caucus sees fit. The most up-to-date Guidelines and Procedures are included in this protocol as Appendix 1.

**Guiding Principles**            **1, 2, 6 and 7**

**Authority**

This Process Convention is established under the authority of Caucus, the Executive Council and the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight and may be amended at any time by the agreement of all parties.

**Protocols**

**Initial Meeting**

1. The first meeting of the Territorial Leadership Committee following a general election is called by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly following consultation with the full Caucus membership. Until such time as a Speaker-elect and a Caucus Chair have been chosen, the Clerk serves as Chair of the Caucus and the TLC.
2. Prior to the first meeting of the Territorial Leadership Committee, the Clerk will review the existing Guidelines and Procedures with the Caucus. At least two days prior to the initial Territorial Leadership Committee meeting, Caucus will adopt the "Guidelines and Procedures" with or without amendment.
3. Immediately following Caucus adoption of the Guidelines and Procedures, the Clerk will issue a media release advising of the time and location of the Territorial Leadership

Committee meeting and the Guidelines and Procedures adopted by Caucus. The most up-to-date version of this media release is included in this protocol as Appendix 2.

4. At the conclusion of the Territorial Leadership Committee meeting, the Clerk will issue a media release advising who has been recommended by the TLC for appointment as Speaker, Premier and Members of the Executive Council.
5. The Clerk will draft formal motions of appointment for the Speaker and Premier-elect and a formal motion to recommend the appointment of Members of the Executive Council. The Clerk will first call upon Members who were nominated for each of the positions in question (where applicable) to move and second the motions. Failing this, the Clerk will seek the advice of the successful candidates for each position as to who should move and second the motions.
6. Immediately following adjournment of the sitting day at which the above-noted motions are adopted, the Speaker will preside over a Swearing-in Ceremony for the Members of the Executive Council. At this ceremony, the Commissioner will be called upon to administer the Oath of Office for Members of the Executive Council.

### **Subsequent Meetings**

1. Following the initial appointment and/or swearing-in of a Speaker, Premier and Member of the Executive Council, vacancies in these offices may occur by reason of resignation, death or revocation of appointment by the Legislative Assembly or the Commissioner on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly.
2. The only means by which a lack of confidence in the appointment of the Speaker, Premier or one or more Members of the Executive Council may be expressed is by way of the adoption of a formal motion duly moved, seconded and resolved in the Legislative Assembly in accordance with its Rules.
3. If the position of the Speaker or Premier becomes vacant, the Deputy Speaker or the Deputy Premier, as the case may be, exercises the powers and performs the duties of that office until a new Speaker or Premier is appointed by the House. If the vacancy occurs within six months of the scheduled dissolution of a Legislative Assembly, the Deputy Speaker or Deputy Premier will continue to exercise the powers and perform the duties of that office in an acting capacity until a Speaker and Premier are selected by the next Legislative Assembly.
4. If one or more vacancies occur on the Executive Council within six months of the scheduled dissolution of a Legislative Assembly, the vacancy will not be filled. The ministerial responsibilities of the former Minister will be redistributed by the Premier or the Deputy Premier, as the case may be, to the remaining Members of the Executive Council.
5. If the number of vacancies occurring within six months of the scheduled dissolution of a Legislative Assembly causes the number of Members appointed to the Executive Council to fall below four, Caucus will meet to fill one or more of the vacancies as if they had occurred more than six months prior to the scheduled dissolution (see process outlined below).
6. If the appointment of the Speaker, Premier or a Member of the Executive Council is ended for any reason more than six months prior to the scheduled dissolution of the Legislative

Assembly, the Chair of Caucus will, after consulting with all Members, call a meeting of the Caucus. Every effort will be made to schedule this meeting no later than four weeks from the effective date of the vacancy.

7. At the Caucus meeting, the Clerk will review the existing Guidelines and Procedures with the Caucus. Caucus will adopt the "Guidelines and Procedures" with or without amendment.
8. Immediately following Caucus agreement on the Guidelines and Procedures, the Clerk will issue a media release advising of the time and location of the Territorial Leadership Committee meeting and the Guidelines and Procedures adopted by Caucus.
9. Following the establishment of a date for the Caucus meeting, the Speaker will call a meeting of the Territorial Leadership Committee to take place on the first working day following the Caucus meeting. If the Legislative Assembly is in recess and is not scheduled to sit on the day following the Territorial Leadership Committee meeting, the Speaker will recall the House on the first working day following the TLC meeting in the Speaker will recall the House on the first working day following the TLC meeting in accordance with an Extended Adjournment Motion. If a Session of the Legislative Assembly has been prorogued, the Speaker shall request the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories to convene a special Session at the appropriate date and time.
10. At the conclusion of the Territorial Leadership Committee meeting, the Clerk will issue a media release advising who has been recommended by the TLC for appointment as Speaker, Premier or Member of the Executive Council.
11. The Clerk will draft either formal motions of appointment or a formal motion to recommend the appointment of a Member or Members of the Executive Council. The Clerk will first call upon Members who were nominated for the positions in question (where applicable) to move and second the motion or motions. Failing this, the Clerk will seek the advice of the successful candidates for each position as to who should move and second the motion or motions.
12. If the vacancy in question pertains to the Office of the Speaker, the person appointed assumes the role in the House immediately upon adoption of the motion. If the vacancy in question pertains to the Premier or a Member of the Executive Council, the Speaker will preside over a Swearing-in Ceremony at the adjournment of the sitting day at which the motion is adopted. At this ceremony, the Commissioner will be called upon to administer the Oath of Office for Members of the Executive Council.

  
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Chair, Caucus

March 4, 2021  
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Date

  
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Chair, Executive Council

March 4, 2021  
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Date

